

**Advanced Junior El Toro Clinic
(June 22-25, 2009)**

Who says you can't have a junior El Toro clinic at the Richmond Yacht Club in June? Not the ten enthusiastic RYC juniors and their two compatriots from the Santa Cruz Yacht Club junior program who participated. The clinic was the brain child of RYC junior instructors Tim Stapleton and Mark Halman. The instructors for the week were Buzz Blackett, Christina Nagatani, and David Liebenberg, with organizational work and lots of on- and off-the-water assistance provided by Mark Halman. The themes of the clinic were heavy-air boat handling, sailing aggressively, and setting and working toward goals. The highlight of the week was the Wednesday morning introduction to match racing taught by Liz Baylis. Liz not only introduced the kids to the rigors and complexities of match racing, but got them working on match racing drills that dramatically improved their boat handling.

The juniors who participated in this year's clinic are Dylan Barry, Grace Anne Carrick, David Halman, Jesse Kittles, Sara Lake, Little Bear Lundergaard, Sam Normington, Dane Perrott, Liam Russell, and Haydon Stapleton from RYC, and Mackenzie Cook and Michael Pacholski from the SCYC junior program.

All of the instructors hope the clinic can become an annual event.

Buzz Blackett